



The Bethel Courier.

VOLUME VIII, NUMBER 1

SPRING, 1984

BETHEL HISTORICAL SOCIETY



One of the bright moments in the 1930s, the Indian Raid Sesqui-centennial parade, Main Street, Bethel, August 3, 1931.

BETHEL IN THE GREAT DEPRESSION

by Margaret Joy Tibbetts

Editor's Note: Few events have affected the American people more deeply in the twentieth century than the Great Depression of the 1930s. This paper was given at the monthly meeting of the Bethel Historical Society on November 4, 1982 and has been somewhat revised and enlarged for publication in this issue.

The Great Depression of the 1930s was for millions in the United States a terrible experience from which came permanent changes in the American scene. In parts of the United States there was desolation and misery, for example, in the Dust Bowl of the southwest or in the shanty town "Hoovervilles" on the outskirts of the big cities. Before the depression most Americans took it for granted that an honest, hard-working person would almost certainly do well in life; yet from 1930 until World War II many honest hard-working Americans saw themselves reduced to helplessness by unemployment.

In looking at this period we can see how relatively fortunate we were in Bethel although at the time most Bethel people complained bitterly that times were hard. There had never been large scale industries or even many symptoms of economic boom in Bethel which meant that there was less to fall. Our economy had always been very low-key, based upon small wood mills, small farms, small businesses. For generations many young Bethel people left the area to earn their living elsewhere.

Of equal importance was a strong Yankee tradition of thrift, ingenuity, and living within one's means. Many men were experienced in combining a bit of farming, lumbering and odd jobs on a regular basis. Fewer women went out regularly to work than is the case today but there were some who worked in the mills while others were employed as cleaning women or took in washing or did sewing. In one way or another a good number of local people had several skills and were used to scrabbling for jobs.

The depression came gradually after the stock market crash in October, 1929. All through 1930 and 1931 businesses began gradually to close, unemployment rose, many used up their savings and lost their homes. By 1932 only 40% of the industrial plant in the United States was working. Banks had begun to fail and unemployment stood at 25%. At that time there was no social security, no unemployment insurance, no medicare or medicaid, no food stamps, no insurance for bank deposits. The only relief was emergency aid from local authorities.

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FAYE TAYLOR MEMORIAL ART SHOW

MAY 26 - 10 - 4

Dr. Moses Mason's 195th Birthday Party

MAY 27 - 2 - 4 P.M.

Some of the effects of the coming of the depression can be learned from the Bethel Town Reports of 1930. Business began to slow with some lay-offs and shortened time at the mills. By 1931 there was a noticeable increase in unpaid taxes. The tax collector's reports characterized some non-paying taxpayers as "worthless", others as "unable to pay". Although no definition of these terms was given, I recognize under the term "worthless" the names of the well-known and usually long standing town paupers; those "unable to pay" include families always known locally as hard-working and responsible people. By 1934 and 1935 some homes were being lost either through foreclosures or tax liens although the number around Bethel of such cases did not begin to approach that in some other sections of the country.

From the records of Bethel's expenditures on the poor it is clear that the numbers were growing. Local relief is on an emergency basis and it may be very infrequent - the occasional bag of groceries - or it may go on for years and cover a number of expenses, as in the case of some of the paupers. The following are the amounts spent by the town on poor relief as the depression developed.

YEAR	AMOUNT
1929	\$ 713
1930	2,317
1931	2,779
1932	4,129
1933	3,817

From 1933 the figures decline as the New Deal legislation began to come into place. Again, some of the names listed as receiving relief are from families never before - or since - known to need public assistance. Later records in some cases indicate payment from these individuals.

Because of our climate and distance from larger centers Bethel has never been a particular destination for homeless wanderers, fortunately, but the Town Reports show a considerable increase in the number of tramps who came during the depression years. The local practice was to give an incoming tramp a can of beans and a loaf of bread and a night's accommodation in "The Lock Up." The "Lock Up" was a small building on High Street with two rooms and a wood stove. The food and wood were paid for by the Town and dispensed by Annie Heath and subsequently Carrie Merrill. The Town Reports give the following figures.

YEAR	COST	NUMBER OF TRAMPS
1931	\$240	409
1932	292	521
1933	367	811*
1934	296	662*
1935	411	994
1936	460	1,112

*these figures for 1933 and 1934 include families of women and their children. In 1933 three women with children were put up by the Town overnight at the then Bragdon Boarding House by the Civil War monument; in 1934 two women and their children were treated similarly.

After 1936 the numbers of tramps began to decline slowly. Such New Deal legislation as the Works Projects Administration (WPA) did not affect those of the older tramps who had become in effect unemployable, but the establishment of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) took a good number of teenage boys off the road.

Lower tax collections and increased expenditures on the poor put pressure on the Town's finances. The Selectmen's response was harsh but effective. Wages of Town employees were cut.

In 1933 the laborers on the road had their wages cut by a dollar a day; since some of them were certainly earning no more than \$3-4 a day originally, this was a sharp cut.

The elementary school teachers were also cut. (At that time Bethel's secondary education was furnished by Gould Academy in exchange for a payment from the town; this was a real benefit for the Town and the students). The town teachers were already poorly paid even by Oxford County standards. The highest paid teacher in 1929 was Ethel Bisbee who received \$900 a year. Harry Sawin, the janitor, was paid \$1,100. In 1932 all teacher's salaries were cut 10%, bringing the Bethel teachers well below the county's standard. The average teacher's salary was \$18.14 a week for 36 weeks. In 1933 all teachers' salaries were cut another ten percent. Ethel Bisbee and Herbert Bean, the two highest paid, received \$850 a year each; Harry Sawin was paid \$750. The youngest teachers were paid about \$650 for a 36 week year.

Miserably low as these salaries were, at least they were paid. Some towns simply did not meet the payroll all of the time. Floribel Haines who was teaching in Greenwood at that time went for some months without being paid in 1933; her family helped her and she "got by." By 1936 times had improved and some of the cuts were restored in the Bethel district; by 1937 the remainder of the cuts were restored, thus bringing teachers back to 1929 levels.

I was in the elementary school for part of this period and what remains in my memory is the high standard of the Bethel teachers. To the best of my recollection none of the pupils had the slightest idea that the teachers' salaries had been cut two years in a row and that the future must have looked uncertain, to say nothing of the present. My memories are of a cheerful, capable and much-loved group.

Reading the *Citizen* for the period makes it clear that for almost everyone in Bethel it was a period of tight economies. Prices were low but wages were low, and from the advertisements and the *Citizen's* exhortations it is apparent that most businesses were suffering. It was fortunate that so many Bethel people were by nature and training thrifty. Many of the women were superb managers. They harvested from their gardens, cooked economically, picked berries and greens from the wild, in some cases kept a few hens and did much of the family sewing.

One friend who was a child at the time tells me his strong memory is that in his family they ate baked beans often. Another friend who grew up in West Bethel tells me his mother would send him to a neighbor once a week to buy eggs at 13¢ for six. The West Bethel Selectman, Carroll Abbott, would from time to time give this boy's mother a bag of flour from donated supplies; about twice a month his mother would cook a fowl. For the majority, luxuries were few. Entertainment came from reading, the radio, playing cards, local ball games, school and church functions, the Grange, etc. Families held together and helped out with odd jobs, loads of wood and sharing garden produce. At times my medical doctor father was paid for making a call with venison - not always in season - or some wood.

In the 1932 election Bethel which had for many years been strongly Republican split almost evenly between Hoover and Franklin D. Roosevelt, 481 for Hoover, 423 for Roosevelt with 20 votes for the Socialist candidate Norman Thomas and 1 Communist vote. By late 1933 New Deal measures were beginning to be implemented. The CCC camp was established at Wild River and the boys in their thick Khaki uniforms were seen at ball games or occasional movies; some Bethel men had jobs at the camp - again, very low pay, about \$16 to \$18 a week. The CCC was a popular program; the participants behaved well and the conservation work was approved as useful.

By 1934 the Civil Works Aid (CWA) came to the area. It provided work for the unemployed; 38 men and 2 women were eligible in Bethel that year. The men painted school houses, worked on resurfacing the Songo Pond road, and removed brown tail moth. The women did sewing. The WPA (Works Progress Administration) replaced the CWA in 1935. Around Bethel they did road and bridge work, mainly on Mill and Grover Hills. Wages were between \$10 and \$12 a week, low even by the standards of the times. The *Citizen* noted that some who had signed up for the WPA had found other work by the time it began around Bethel. Other New Deal legislation in the area was the milk program for sixty undernourished children in the schools and the soil conservation program for farmers with some assistance with seed and fertilizer, Leslie Davis notes in his unpublished memoirs (in the Society archives) that from 1936 on men could find jobs and the situation had begun to look up.

Clearly Bethel weathered the depression without the disastrous consequences experienced in some areas. The town remained solvent and both the Savings Bank and the National Bank were sound and no savings were lost. Some help came, of course, because of Mr. Bingham's subsidies to the Inn which kept it open in the summer at the usual high standards. In addition, Mr. Bingham's gift which made possible the building of Hanscom Hall in the summer of 1933 brought some jobs to local men although some of the specialized workers on the Academy building came from out of town. And as I have indicated the school system, despite cuts and economies, remained of good quality; with Gould Academy also benefitting from Mr. Bingham's kindness, the secondary education of most town students was really unaffected by the depression.

But the basics of Bethel's economy were beyond the range of Mr. Bingham's help and without doubt the low wages and reduced work of the period imposed frightful strains. As noted above there were sixty children who qualified as under-nourished for the milk program. In some cases the costs were certainly high. Because Bethel people are not accustomed to talk publicly of their problems we do not know how many young people had to give up hopes of further education. We do know that many had to leave Bethel to look elsewhere for work and that some were over-qualified for the jobs they had to take. Jobs did not become easy anywhere until the war. We do not really know either how many people were physically weakened by ten hour days, low wages and worry, but we all know of some such cases.

In general, however, life went on with a surface normalcy. There was no violence and no break down of traditional social values. Family life was strong and there were many examples of private kindness and friendship. The simple entertainments available provided a good deal of fun. The character of Bethel citizens proved to be more than equal to hardship and stress.

EDITOR'S CORNER

One of the most common errors I find in much that is written and even spoken is the placement of "an" before historical and historic. Even historians who should know better are falling prey to this mistaken notion of replacing the correct "a" with "an." If they thought about it for a minute it would be clear that a word beginning with "h" such as honest where the "h" is silent takes "an." When a word begins with as aspirated "h" or consonant sounded "h" such as historic or historical it must be "a". Simple enough, but notice how often this error occurs in writing and speech.

SRH

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

The preservation of Bethel's historical character in terms of its various neighborhoods of typical New England homes and public buildings observed as a cohesive village has caught the attention of a broad audience this year due to recent articles about our town in winter.

An extensive article about Bethel and Sunday River appeared in the January 29, 1984 edition of the *Boston Sunday Globe*. It was written by an author who is well-versed in New England vacation areas, Christina Tree. Her husband, William Davis, is the Travel Editor of the *Boston Globe*. Both have visited Bethel previously in the course of general travel and for professional reasons.

A second article about Bethel appeared in the *New York Sunday Times* on February 19, 1984. It was written by Fred Hill of the *Baltimore Sun*. Both Mr. Hill and Ms. Tree were in Bethel on vacation with their families in the period after Christmas gathering material for these articles.

What has struck them about our community and has made Bethel something special in their view is the fact that it is a charming winter vacation area, unlike typical ski developments. The town, however, is first and foremost a real village with character rooted in the frontier history of northern New England, not in the all too familiar outlines and images of recently constructed ski towns.

Judging from the very favorable response received from the appearance of these articles, it is easy to say that probably many others share the same values of a Bethel lifestyle as we do.

Donald G. Bennett

BOOK REVIEW

Edwin A. Churchill, *Simple Forms and Vivid Colors; An Exhibition of Maine Painted Furniture, 1800-1850*, (Augusta; Maine State Museum, 1983), pp. XXII, 117, \$25.

The carefully guarded secret of Maine paint decorated furniture no longer exists. Or does it? This catalogue by Edwin A. Churchill, Curator of Decorative Arts at the Maine State Museum, unwraps the gift for Mainers that serious decorative art collectors across the United States have known Maine to have for years. Will Maine people take the opportunity to view the treasures they may have in their homes? They should, and the Churchill volume is the starting place.

Now that the exhibit is over, only this fine catalogue remains. Treating a subject unknown to most Maine residents, it offers an opportunity to those new to the subject and the serious collector to learn about what one often sees. There is a lot of paint decorated furniture in private homes in Maine. Sadly, few people know they have it. Sadly again, few people recognize the importance of this furniture as a unique decorative art.

This catalogue offers its information on two levels. It introduces the subject to the novice and supplies specific references to those who want to know everything.

The first level is visual. One need only spend a half-hour going page by page through the thirty-two color plates to get a fine introduction to the subject. The rare and the common are shown side by side. The photography is excellent. The half-hour spent will inform the eye. Once the eye is informed, a Maine resident will suddenly find himself making discoveries in the field. If one knows what he is looking for, he will see it. The Churchill catalogue will introduce him to this very special decorative art field. It can be done in less than an hour and will last a lifetime.

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The second level will only appeal to those with greater interest. This part of the catalogue may be missed by those new to the subject but is information sought by the serious collector. Chapters on construction, wood, decoration, decoration techniques and a check list of known Maine decorators give those with serious interest a book they cannot be without. Not only is this the first in-depth study of Maine paint decorated furniture, the catalogue may be used to examine all American paint decorated furniture.

Assuming that the people of Maine would want to know about Maine's greatest contribution to American decorative art, the catalogue is very important. For the novice and the experienced, the material is there and the subject is worth it. To ignore what serious art collectors have taken out of Maine for years is to turn one's back on the state itself. I would suggest that a half hour of learning will satisfy the eye of a Mainer for a lifetime. The Churchill catalogue is a fine effort to wake Maine up to its great contribution to American decorative arts.

F. Barrie Freeman

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MIDDLE INTERVALE MEETING HOUSE SOCIETY

The Middle Intervale Meeting House stands in quiet dignity in one of Bethel's loveliest rural settings. This historic landmark is flanked on the left by the peaceful old cemetery and on the right by the old County road. Stretching along this road to the Androscoggin River are the broad acres of a busy dairy farm owned and operated by the 6th generation descendants of Dr. Timothy Carter, Bethel's first doctor. With a desire to help his community, he set aside a parcel of his land for "a meeting House, a Common, and a Burial Ground".

Fact and legend combine in an interesting tale. The building was used for town meetings as well as religious services. The people of Hanover (which was then a part of Bethel) crossed the icy river in boats, then walked a mile over the windswept intervale to attend the meetings. Because of the danger of this route, Hanover later became a separate town. Sometimes people were thrown out the door, perhaps for the same reason the Militia mustering on the Common fell down, due to the proximity of a store which sold 6 gallons of rum for \$1.00.

This remained the center of the town until mid-century when a new town house was built on the line separating the East and West Parishes (near the site of the new Dale Stevens' residence). The legend is that an auction was held, that the Baptists outbid the Methodists by a dollar and became the owners of the building. Extensive research has found nothing to substantiate this, though the Society was active there until the early 20th Century. The Methodists did build a church on "Bethel Hill" and soon thereafter a severe wind blew the steeples off both buildings. Could it be that someone "out there" was trying to advise people to have multi-purpose structures and not dissipate energy on too many denominations?

In 1926,, Millard Clough papered, and painted the inside and outside of the Meeting House at a total cost of \$179.50. New windows were purchased for \$77.00 and Ben Kimball installed them at no charge.

In 1978 The Middle Intervale Meeting House Society was organized for the purpose of restoring the building and the Common and currently the membership covers 12 states, Canada, the Philippines, and London, England.

The first officers were: President, Stanley Howe; Vice-President, Steve Wight; Secretary, Geraldine Howe; Treasurer, Edward Carter.

Edward, Richard, and Paul Carter, Mrs. Stanley Carter and B.C. Bailey relinquished their claims to the property and gave the Society a clear title.

Restorations to date include:

1. The Stevens families were hired to repair the cupola, replace the spires, and repair the leaking roof.
2. Rodney Howe and Edward Carter, with some help, reset the foundation stones, nailed clapboards, and cleared the accumulated debris.
3. The roof and the exterior of the building have been repainted. The Cove ceiling has been repaired and painted as well as part of the interior.
4. Catherine Bush donated material for curtains, which her sister, Barbara Kuzyk made and installed.

5. In 1983, work was started on the improvement of the Common. Money for a hedge was given by Lt. General and Mrs. James Alger, Elizabeth Woronzoff and Florence Feitler (of Michigan). Edith Eypper donated young trees and a double row was set out on the boundary. Bruce Bailey donated poles. Help in peeling them was given by Donald Eddy and George Noll, and with assistance from Stephen Seames, Rodney Howe, Bob Elliot, Ranald Stevens, and Bob Silvia (Mass.), the fence was built.

6. Richard and Timothy Carter helped in the moving of stones, and the nucleus of a wall (to replace the original one) was started on the South line. Anyone going by, please add a stone.

7. In October, 1981, Charles Tobie of Hebron gave the Society a Packard Reed Organ with a carved oak case. Foot pumped, with a dozen stops, this organ is believed to have been made in 1880 by the Fort Wayne Organ Co., Fort Wayne, Indiana. An excellent piano was donated by Albert Brown of Hanover.

The Meeting House has been used, despite the unfinished state of the interior for: the wedding of Pamela Carter and Cameron Taylor in 1981, the first since 1892; for a meeting of the Bethel Historical Society, followed by a picnic on the Common; two Memorial Services for Philip and Florence Carter; two very popular old-fashioned concerts; a stimulating old-time sermon, led by the Rev. Norman Rust. Christ Episcopal Church, Norway, a very generous benefactor, holds a service and harvest supper each September.

Fund raising activities have included selling stationery, bake sales, sale of pews and foundation stones. In time it is hoped to have Memorial Pamphlets for sale of the very interesting dedication articles.

Current Officers are:

President:	Harry Kuzyk	Vice-President:	Phyllis Dock
Secretary:	Geraldine Howe	Treasurer:	Louise Annis
Trustees:	Lt. General James D. Alger, Agnes Haines, Elizabeth M. Carter, Mary Verenis, and Edwine Guyer.		

The Middle Intervale Meeting House Society hopes to not only restore and maintain the building and the Common but also to regain the sense of community evinced by the original settlers. You are invited to become part of this venture as much work still remains to be done.

Yearly Memberships are \$1.00; Life membership is \$25.00; and any contribution to an endowment fund for maintenance would be appreciated. You may contact any of the officers listed above; or,

Address correspondence to:

Geraldine Howe, Secretary
Middle Intervale Meeting House Society
R. F. D. #1
Bethel, Maine 04217

BETHEL HISTORICAL SOCIETY
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1983

B. Sturges Butler
PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT

TELEPHONE 778-4306

7 BROADWAY
FARMINGTON, MAINE 04938

Board of Trustees
Bethel Historical Society
Bethel, Maine 04217

We have examined the balance sheet of the Bethel Historical Society at December 31, 1983 and the statements of revenues and expenditures and changes in fund balances for the year then ended. Our examination was made in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and accordingly included such tests of the accounting records and such other auditing procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly the financial position of the Bethel Historical Society at December 31, 1983 and the results of its operations for the year then ended, in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles applied on a basis consistent with that of the preceding year.

B. Sturges Butler
B. Sturges Butler
Public Accountant

February 20, 1984

BETHEL HISTORICAL SOCIETY
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
DECEMBER 31, 1983 AND DECEMBER 31, 1982

	1983 Total All Funds	1982 Total All Funds
ASSETS		
Cash in banks	\$ 112,969	\$ 119,610
Investments	224,944	161,143
Due from grants	3,952	4,592
Inventory at cost	2,377	2,885
Prepaid insurance	1,240	717
Properties and equipment at cost - net (Note 2)	253,323	264,028
Land	5,000	5,000
Collections materials	11,795	11,645
Total assets	\$ 615,600	\$ 569,620
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES		
Accounts payable	\$ 1,823	\$ 1,750
Accrued expenses payable	403	423
Total liabilities	2,226	2,173
Fund balances:		
Undesignated	23,766	21,882
Restricted - General	319,690	283,173
- "Sidney's Fund"	269,918	262,392
Total fund balances	613,374	567,447
Total liabilities and fund balances	\$ 615,600	\$ 569,620

The accompanying summary of significant accounting policies and notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

BETHEL HISTORICAL SOCIETY
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENSES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1983 AND DECEMBER 31, 1982

	1983 Total All Funds	1982 Total All Funds
Revenues:		
General contributions (Note 3)	\$ 57,808	\$ 69,525
Dues	2,759	1,996
Admissions and sales income	3,352	3,955
Rental income	130	400
Investment income	23,810	18,627
Income from programs	1,115	528
Grant income	3,332	9,120
Total income	92,306	104,151
Expenses:		
Director's Expense	1,298	--
Advertising	385	254
Program exhibits	581	482
Merchandise for resale	1,341	1,613
Depreciation expense	11,271	11,862
Salaries	13,999	13,303
Heat, lights, water and sewer	4,469	5,717
Janitorial services	85	72
Supplies	3,357	3,019
Insurance	2,003	2,071
Building repairs	840	485
Taxes	1,233	1,341
Dues	285	255
Professional fees	500	500
Bookkeeping expense	1,100	1,000
Telephone	273	288
Miscellaneous expense	27	125
Special program - Grant expense	3,332	9,120
Total expenses	46,379	51,507
Excess (Deficiency) of revenues over expenses	45,927	52,644
Fund balance at beginning of year	567,447	514,803
Fund balance end of year	\$ 613,374	\$ 567,447

The accompanying summary of significant accounting policies and notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

B. Sturges Butler
PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT

BETHEL HISTORICAL SOCIETY
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
FOR INDIVIDUAL FUNDS
DECEMBER 31, 1983

ASSETS	UNRESTRICTED FUNDS		RESTRICTED FUNDS	
	CURRENT	PROPERTIES	COLLECTIONS	ENDOWMENT
Cash in banks	\$ 2,098	\$ 3,752	\$	\$ 107,119
Investments				224,944
Due from grants	3,952			
Inventory at cost	2,377			
Prepaid insurance	1,240			
Properties and equipment at cost (Note 2)		370,528		
Less accumulated depreciation		117,205		
Land		253,323		
Land		.5,000		
Collections materials			11,795	
Total assets	\$ 9,667	\$ 262,075	\$ 11,795	\$ 332,063
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES				
Accounts payable	\$ 1,823	\$	\$	\$
Accrued expenses payable	403			
Total liabilities	2,226			
Fund balances:				
Undesignated	7,441			16,325
Restricted - General		262,075	11,795	45,820
- "Sidney's Fund"				269,918
Total fund balances	7,441	262,075	11,795	332,063
Total liabilities and fund balances	\$ 9,667	\$ 262,075	\$ 11,795	\$ 332,063

The accompanying summary of significant accounting policies and notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

BETHEL HISTORICAL SOCIETY
STATEMENTS OF REVENUES, EXPENSES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE
FOR INDIVIDUAL FUNDS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1983

	UNRESTRICTED FUNDS		RESTRICTED FUNDS	
	CURRENT	PROPERTIES	COLLECTIONS	ENDOWMENT
Revenues:				
General contributions (Note 3)	\$ 7,808	\$	\$	\$ 50,000
Dues	2,759			
Admissions and sales income	3,352			
Rental income	130			
Investment income	21,713	380		1,717
Income from programs	1,115			
Grant income	3,332			
Total income	40,209	380		51,717
Expenses:				
Program exhibits	581			
Merchandise for resale	1,341			
Depreciation expense		11,271		
Salaries	13,999			
Heat, lights, water and sewer	4,469			
Janitorial services	85			
Supplies	3,357			
Insurance	2,003			
Building repairs	840			
Taxes	1,233			
Dues	285			
Professional fees	500			
Bookkeeping expense	1,100			
Telephone	273			
Miscellaneous expense	27			
Postage expense	3,332			
Advertising	385			
Director's expense	1,298			
Total expenses	35,108	11,271		
Excess (Deficiency) of revenues over expenses	5,101	(10,891)		51,717
Individual fund balance at beginning of year	10,382	269,028	11,645	276,392
Transfers between funds	(8,042)	3,938	150	3,954
Individual fund balance end of year	\$ 7,441	\$ 262,075	\$ 11,795	\$ 332,063

The accompanying summary of significant accounting policies and notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

B. STURGES BUTLER

BETHEL HISTORICAL SOCIETY
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 1983

Note 3 - General contributions:

William Bingham 2nd Trust for Charity has in the past given substantial amounts of money as an annual contribution to the Bethel Historical Society. As the Trust must remain free to undertake new projects, and as it appears the Bethel Historical Society has to a great degree stabilized its expenses, the Trust has proposed to establish a permanent endowment fund of \$250,000, payable in \$50,000 allotments as the Trust deems possible. Until the endowment is complete, the Trust has further proposed to continue making an annual contribution of not more than \$19,000 (or the actual deficit, whichever is smaller) less the actual amount of income the Society has received each year from the investment of the endowment fund already turned over to it.

The Trust imposes no restrictions on the use of the endowment fund or to the management of the fund. It strongly suggests that the fund be called "Sidney's Fund," to acknowledge the role of Mr. Sidney W. Davidson who inspired the restoration of the Moses Mason House. It is hoped that the principal of this fund will not be used except in the most extraordinary circumstances.

B. Sturges Butler
PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT

BETHEL HISTORICAL SOCIETY
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 1983

Note 1 - Major accounting policies:

Inventories:
Inventories are recorded at cost as there are no items being sold at less than the cost value.

Properties and depreciation:
Purchased properties are recorded at cost; donated properties are recorded at market value at the date of the gift. Maintenance and repairs are charged to the appropriate expense accounts in the year incurred; renewals and replacements are capitalized. Depreciation is computed using the straight line method at annual rates based upon estimated useful lives. The useful lives are 40 years for the building and 10 years on most of the equipment and furniture. Collection materials which are to be retained permanently are not depreciated.

Note 2 - Properties:

Major Properties classifications are as follows:

	BUILDING	BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS	EQUIPMENT AND FURNISHINGS	COLLECTIONS MATERIALS
December 31, 1983	\$ 278,621	\$ 57,509	\$ 33,832	\$ 11,645
Additions	--	--	566	150
December 31, 1983	\$ 278,621	\$ 57,509	\$ 34,398	\$ 11,795

Depreciation charges were as follows:

Building	\$ 6,966
Building improvements	2,145
Equipment and furnishings	2,160
	<u>\$ 11,271</u>

SUSTAINING

Barbara Rich Adams, Lancaster, NH; Mrs. Helen V. Allen, Providence, RI; Mr. James Anderson, Newry; Mrs. Marjorie Anderson, Owls Head; Mrs. Olive Anderson, Newry; Mr. & Mrs. Ernest Angevine, Bethel; Mary Bakeman, Roseville, MN; Mr. & Mrs. Bradley Barker, Bethel; Mrs. Vivian Barlow, Andover; Miss Dorothy Bartlett, Bethel; Mrs. Lillian C. Bartlett, Bethel; Mr. Otis J. Bartlett, Berlin, NH; Mr. Randall H. Bennett, Rumford; Mrs. Barbara Bethel, Brooklyn, NY; Mrs. Mary Billings, Bryant Pond; Mrs. Elizabeth Blake, Bethel; Rev. & Mrs. Raymond Bradley Jr., Riverside, RI; Veronica Boylan, Bethel; Mr. Edward Britton, Louisville, KY; Mr. & Mrs. Donald E. Brooks, Bethel; Miss Jeri Brooks, Bethel; Mr. & Mrs. Donald Brown, Bethel; Mrs. Bernice E. Brown, Rumford Center; Mr. & Mrs. Norris Brown, Bethel; Mrs. Doris Brown, Bethel; Mrs. Geneva H. Brown, Norway; Miss Julia B. Brown, Bethel; Miss Karen Brown, Bethel; Mr. Kurt G. Brown, Bethel; Mrs. Marie C. Brown, Bethel; Mr. & Mrs. Merton Brown Jr., Bethel; Mrs. Maxine Brown, Bethel; Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Burris, Bethel; Mrs. Grace Buck, Bethel; Mrs. Erma Buckley, Gorham, NH; Mr. Alan S. Burgess, Trevett; Mr. Norm Buttrick, Freeport; Ms. Carolyn Campbell, Bethel; Mr. & Mrs. Russell Carpenter, Winchester, MA; Mr. & Mrs. Richard Carter, Bethel; Mr. & Mrs. Franklin S. Chapman, Bethel; Mr. & Mrs. Hugh Chapman, Bethel; Mr. & Mrs. Charles N. Clark, De Bary, FL; Mrs. Adaline S. Clough, Bethel; Mr. Ben Conant, South Paris; Mr. Roger Conant, Bethel; Helen Connolly, Port Ludlow, WA; Mr. Cecil Conrad, Bethel; Mr. & Mrs. John W. Conselman, Palm Springs, CA; Mrs. Joan S. Coolidge, Bethel; Mr. & Mrs. Victor L. Coolidge, Bethel; Mr. & Mrs. Wilfred Coolidge, Bethel; Mr. Albert Cotton, Bethel; Mrs. Ruth Cox, Bryant Pond; Barbara Craig, Bethel; Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Cummings, Bethel; Mrs. Marjorie Cummings, Bethel; Mrs. Amy Davis, Bethel; Mrs. Elsie Davis, Bethel; Mr. & Mrs. John Davis, South Paris; Mr. & Mrs. Theodore Davis Jr., Bethel; Mr. Francis J. Devine, South Portland; Mrs. Adeline Dexter, Bethel; Mrs. Ruth E. Dobson, Concord, NH; Mr. & Mrs. Gayland Dooen, Bethel; Dr. Horton Emerson Jr., Gorham; Mrs. Ruby Emery, Bryant Pond; Mrs. Edith Eypper, Bethel; Mrs. Jessie Fairbanks, Bethel; Mrs. Edna Fallon, Bethel; Lt. Col. (Ret'd) Percy C. Fauskin, Corona, CA; Mrs. Olive Grover Ferguson, Exeter, NH; Mrs. Anita Ferrand, Bethel; Mr. Gordon Fish, St. Johnsbury, VT; Mrs. Abigail Fiske, Gorham, NH; Mr. & Mrs. Lincoln B. Fiske, Bethel; Mr. Richard Fraser, Bryant Pond; Mr. Philip Glasson, Berlin, NH; Mrs. Celia Gorman, Bethel; Mrs. Dorothy Graves, Bethel; Mrs. Alice Tyler Gray, Portland; Mr. Stephen W. Gray, Sunnyvale, CA; Miss Christine Greenleaf, Bethel; Mrs. Mabel Greenleaf, Bethel; Mrs. Marjorie Greer, Kla-

math Rv. CA; Mrs. Beatrice Grover, Bethel; Mrs. Jean Grover, Locke Mills; Mr. & Mrs. Charles Haines, Bethel; Mr. Fred Haines Jr., Bethel; Mr. George Haines, Bethel; Mr. John Haines, Bryant Pond; Mr. Peter T. Haines, Bethel; Mr. Harold E. Hall, Hebron; Mr. & Mrs. Richard Harding Sr., Bryant Pond; Mrs. Maude Harrington, Bethel; Dr. & Mrs. John Hart, Bangor; Miss Eugenia Haselton, Bangor; Mrs. Judith Haskell, Bethel; Mr. Bruce W. Hazelton, Cumberland Ctr.; Miss Emeline Heath, Gilead; Mr. & Mrs. Allan Howe, Bethel; Mr. & Mrs. John Gregory Howe, Severn, MD; Mr. Enoch W. Hunt II, Newcastle; Mr. & Mrs. Harlan Hutchins, Bethel; Mrs. Martha K. Hutchins, Oxford; Sgt. Sue Hutchins, Columbus AFB, MS; Mrs. Iva Hutchinson, Bethel; Mrs. Suzanne Iarrobino, Bethel; Mr. & Mrs. Donald R. Isham, Bethel; Mrs. Dana Jackson, Bethel; Mr. & Mrs. Gayland K. Jensen, Mantua, UT; Mr. & Mrs. Arlan Jodrey, Bethel; Mr. & Mrs. Gordon W. Johnston, West Sumner; Mrs. Dorothy H. Jones, Portland; Mr. & Mrs. Paul Kailey, Bethel; Barry J. Kelley, Berlin, NH; Mr. & Mrs. Eugene L. Kelly, Jr., Bethel; Mr. & Mrs. Earlon Keniston, Bethel; Mr. & Mrs. Edward Kennett, Locke Mills; Mrs. Susan Kettinger, Salem, NH; James N. Locke, Willimantic, CT; James H. Locke, Naturita, CO; Mrs. Alice Kimball, Bethel; Mrs. Roberta Kirmse, Ft. Lauderdale, FL; Mrs. Thelma Knight, Montpelier, VT; Mr. & Mrs. Harry Kuzyk, Bethel; Mr. Harold M. Lawrence, Portland; Robin Lee, Bethel; Flora M. Locke, Lancaster, CA; Mrs. Doris Lord, Haines City, FL; Mr. & Mrs. Stanley Lord, Bethel; Mrs. Ruth Lord, Bethel; Mrs. Carolyn MacDormand, North Hampton, NH; Mrs. Ethel MacKensie, Bryant Pond; Ms. Marlene Marshall, Bethel; Mr. & Mrs. Stuart F. Martin, Rumford Point; Mr. Charles Morgan Mason, Pittsburgh, PA; Mrs. Mildred McLain, Gilead; Mrs. Nancy Mercer, Bethel; Mrs. Barbara Merrill, Newry; Mr. Everett R. Mayo, Wilmington, DE; Mr. H. Paul McGuire, Bethel; Mrs. Caroline O. Merrill, Bethel; Mrs. Jeordie Merrill, Bethel; Mr. F.D. Mills, Farmington; Mrs. Barbara Miller, Bethel; Mrs. Joann Mooney, Ottawa, Ontario; Mr. Herbert Morton III, Andover, MA; Miss Alice Mundt, Worcester, MA; Mr. & Mrs. Ernest Mundt, Bethel; Mrs. Vicky Myers, Bethel; Mrs. Jean Ness, Orono; Mr. Charles W. Newell, Bethel; Mrs. Hazel H. Newell, Locke Mills; Mr. & Mrs. George A. Nickerson, Bethel; Mr. & Mrs. George H. Noll, Bethel; Mr. & Mrs. John Nordahl, Lexington, MA; Mr. & Mrs. John Nowlin, Bethel; Mrs. Jean K. Owen, Bethel; Mr. Earlon Paine, Bethel; Mr. & Mrs. Guy M. Parker Sr., Bethel; Mr. Kim Bradley Parker, West Haven, CT; Mr. Mitchell Parker, Milford, CT; Mrs. Mary H. Parsons, Ann Arbor, MI; Mrs. Warren E. Percival, Andover; Rachel Bean Perkins, Springvale; Mr. & Mrs. Harold Powell, Bethel; Mr. Read H. Putnam, Evanston, WY; Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Ramage, Bethel;

Join the Bethel Historical Society dedicated to preserving and interpreting the local past.

Membership in the Society entitles you to:

- | | |
|---|--|
| (1) free admission to the museum | (5) quarterly newsletter |
| (2) special discounts at museum store | (6) reduced course fees |
| (3) preferred rate for meeting room rental | (7) voting rights in the Society |
| (4) special library and archival privileges | (8) special invitations to Society occasions |

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The Bethel Historical Society
P.O. Box 12
Bethel, Maine 04217

Published quarterly by the Bethel Historical Society, Stanley R. Howe, Editor. Please address all inquiries and suggestions to Editor, Bethel Historical Society Newsletter, Box 12, Bethel, Maine 04217.

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

Alonzo F. Chapman, San Antonio, Florida, is a native of Bethel and a graduate of Gould Academy, class of 1935.

Agnes H. Haines, Bethel, also a charter member of the Society, has long been active as a researcher, genealogist, craft demonstrator and guide in the museum.

Alden T. and Mabel A. Kennett, Bethel have both been active in the Society for a number of years. Mr. Kennett is currently Vice-President of the Society.

Crawford F. and Therese C. Perry, Bethel, have recently moved here.

SOCIETY OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES

Donald G. Bennett, President; Alden Kennett, Vice President; Mary C. Keniston, Secretary; Margaret Joy Tibbetts, Treasurer; Trustees: Catherine Newell, Ronald Snyder, Willard Wight, Persis Post, Ruth Wight.

IN MEMORIAM

Died, April, 1984, Hugh Mason Clark of Pine Hill, New Jersey. Mr. Clark was the son of Roscoe Conkling Clark and the former Lillian Kimball of East Bethel. He was also descended from the Mason family of Bethel. A frequent correspondent with the Society and an avid reader of the *Courier*, he also was a generous donor.

Died, April 7, 1984, Christine G. Grover, Grover Hill, Bethel. Mrs. Grover was the successor to the late Eva M. Bean as Secretary and for several years was one of those responsible for carrying on the work of the Society and establishing the Moses Mason House as its headquarters. Her secretary's records, now in the Society archives, will forever be a valuable source for those interested in researching its early years.

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